

Judge Burch has called Oregon home since 1947. In the early 1950s her father got a job as a railroad conductor in the region and the family moved to Wheeler County. Jeanne was a freshman in high school then, but went on to study at UC-Berkeley where she received a degree in accounting. That is where she met her husband, Howard, who worked for oil companies as a drilling supervisor. Howard's job took them around the world—to such places as Nigeria, Iran, Greece, and the Canary Islands. After living and seeing the world, Jeanne moved back to Wheeler County to raise her daughters Belinda and Jennifer.

In 1985, Jeanne began working as the Fossil City Recorder and Finance Director. From there, she was appointed Wheeler County Judge in early 1994. Since then, Judge Burch has been described as a “one woman county,” and it's not hard to see why. She serves as a probate and juvenile court judge, the county administrator, and chair of the County Court. In her years of service she has overseen the complete rehabilitation of the county's courthouse, boosted local tourism, and opened the door for businesses to create jobs in Wheeler County.

As the Chairman of the Communications and Technology Subcommittee on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, I am grateful for Judge Burch's remarkable work on telecommunications issues. As a founding board member of Frontier TeleNet over ten years ago, she has helped implement communication services and rural broadband to communities in Gilliam, Sherman and Wheeler counties. It began as a need for broadband access and distance learning opportunities to the rural schools in the three counties. Under Judge Burch's leadership as Chair, Frontier TeleNet has expanded service coverage from roughly 4,000 square miles across three counties to 21,000 square miles across nine counties, bringing with it new ways for medical clinics to help their patients and a backbone for public safety communications in these rural counties. Judge Burch understands the important role that modern communications play in rural isolated communities.

Not only a driving force behind Frontier TeleNet's expansion, she spearheaded efforts to bring cell phone coverage to Fossil and the northern portion of Wheeler county, and continues these efforts in Mitchell and the southern end. Accomplishing these feats has not been an easy task and Judge Burch continued to push through. She has brought the knowledge gained from her experiences to other parts of Oregon as Chair of the Telecommunications Committee for Association of Oregon Counties.

Mr. Speaker, one of my fondest memories of Judge Burch is and will remain her long fight to bring modern telecommunications into the county. Years after most rural communities around Oregon had some access to cellular service, Wheeler County and the county seat of Fossil remained a completely isolated island without cell phone service. Judge Burch would often tell me about the number of recreational accidents and “potential drownings” that float down the John Day River through the county every week in the summer, and the need for cell phone service for emergencies and other uses. With this need and Jeanne's stories on my “to-do” list, I took the opportunity to point out to U.S. Cellular that this unserved area was in their coverage territory. Well, the com-

pany took Jeanne's and my message to heart and within weeks U.S. Cellular began analyzing how to cover this county. In July 2008, Jeanne's coordinated and unrelenting efforts culminated with the community celebration of the county's first cell tower.

I can recall that months after the cell service was established, Judge Burch closed a town meeting I held in Wheeler County by giving me a note from a woman whose husband most likely would have died from the heart attack he suffered, expect for the fact that she was able to use her cell phone to call for emergency assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I know you would appreciate Judge Burch's get'r done attitude. It's makes all the travel and work worthwhile to know that someone like Judge Burch was there to help find solutions to real problems.

Although the sun is setting on Jeanne Burch's career leading Wheeler County, I can tell you the sun will never set on the impact she has on this county and region and the people who call it home.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Jeanne Burch and her husband Howard the best as she retires. Judge, thank you for your exemplary service to Wheeler County and to Oregon.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,780,999,920,520.17. We've added \$5,154,122,871,607.09 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE OUTBREAK OF THE KOREAN WAR

**HON. MIKE KELLY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 29, 2012*

Mr. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, the United States and the Republic of Korea have a deep and sustaining relationship built on shared values and shared sacrifice.

June 25th marked the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War and the early days of an alliance with Korea that has withstood the test of time.

In honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom on the Korean Peninsula, we should affirm our continued support of this trusted ally who has fought alongside the U.S. in nearly every major conflict the U.S. has faced since World War II.

Earlier this year, the United States and the Republic of Korea began the implementation of the U.S.—Korea Free Trade Agreement, the product of years of negotiation and persuasion that will be beneficial to both of our countries and to businesses, workers, and consumers both here and in Korea.

This Free Trade Agreement will stimulate America's economic recovery—without government spending—by increasing U.S. exports and creating jobs in the U.S. According to the Senate Finance Committee, data taken from the independent, nonpartisan U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) suggest that KORUS could create up to 280,000 jobs in the United States. While conservative estimates from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative show a more modest increase of 70,000 jobs, either way you cut it, KORUS means more jobs for Americans, and that's great news for a nation that's suffered one of the longest periods of high unemployment rates since the Great Depression.

In order to level the playing field for American businesses and manufacturers, the agreement has already begun to reduce Korean tariffs on U.S. exports. The ITC estimates that full implementation of KORUS will increase U.S. exports to Korea by nearly 30 percent more than imports from Korea would increase in the U.S., an amount equaling more than \$10 billion.

Even setting aside the great strides we have made by implementing the Free Trade Agreement, the relationship between the United States and Korea could not be stronger.

Economically and politically speaking, Korea is stronger today than at any time in its history, a strength that would have been unimaginable in the dark days after the North Korean invasion 62 years ago.

We have one of the strongest relationships in that part of the world and it will be growing stronger as we have more opportunities to advance our national security interests in the area of nuclear energy cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, let me add that, after 40 years of a really close partnership in nuclear energy, it's now time to renew our 123 Agreement with Korea to strengthen our cooperation in this area. The Korea—U.S. 123 Agreement will create good jobs for Americans in a key industry, nuclear energy.

Clean, safe nuclear energy creates red, white, and blue jobs. I'm talking about evening the playing field for American energy companies that are competing with foreign companies and ensure American global leadership to energy exports of strong domestic energy companies such as Westinghouse, which is one of the most successful employers in Pennsylvania.

Over the past 4 years, Westinghouse has added about 5,000 new employees to sustain its ability to deliver new nuclear power plants in China and the U.S., and provide services and nuclear fuel to the world's existing fleet of nuclear power plants. The majority of these new jobs were added in Western Pennsylvania. In fact, recently Westinghouse has consolidated about 4,000 of the 6,000 employees in Western Pennsylvania in a new facility in Cranberry Township in Butler County. Westinghouse is building products to export to Korea and other countries, and we must assure that all the legal hurdles to these exports are overcome. This includes renewal of our Section 123 agreement that dates to the early 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, the Republic of Korea has been a partner with us since 1950 in every endeavor we've had—commercially, diplomatically, and militarily.

The Korean people don't wait for the call. They don't wait for somebody saying, we need